

CLAIMS

1. Device for sharpening a blade of a manual cutting tool, in particular a knife, comprising a support which is provided with a cut-out, sharpening elements being placed opposite each other and in a staggered arrangement in the region of the cut-out, being mounted so as to rotate about shafts which are fixed to the support and being provided with means for returning into position so as to define a sharpening zone which is variable in accordance with the position of the blade of a tool between the sharpening elements, characterised in that the sharpening elements comprise at least three identical levers (11; 11'), each lever (11; 11') being angled and provided with two arms (13, 16; 13' 16'), of which one (13; 13') is generally curved and provided with an end (14; 14') having a substantially rectilinear edge whilst the other arm (16; 16') constitutes a means (16; 16') for returning the lever (11; 11') into position by means of gravity, the lever being mounted so as to be able to pivot, in the region of a junction zone (15) between the arms (13, 16; 13', 16'), about a geometric axis (D_{10}) which is generally perpendicular relative to the longitudinal direction (A-A') of the cut-out (4, 5).
2. Device according to claim 1, characterised in that each lever (11; 11') comprises an arm (13, 14; 13', 14'), one edge (F) of which has a generally semi-circular cross-section and is suitable for being in contact with a blade (18) of a tool.
3. Device according to claim 2, characterised in that the edge (F) of the arm (13; 13') of at least one lever (11; 11') is polished at least in the curved portion of the arm (13;

13') and is finely ribbed in the manner of a sharpening steel, at least in the region of the end (14; 14') of the same arm.

4. Device according to claim 1, characterised in that the levers (11; 11') are suitable for being blocked in a position referred to as the rest position, in which the spacing between the ends (14; 14') is at a maximum, by means of two stops (9; 9') which are fixed to the support (2) and which are produced from a material which attenuates impacts.

5. Device according to claim 4, characterised in that the support (2) is provided with a third stop (7) which is generally located half-way between the two stops (9; 9') of attenuating material and which is suitable for blocking the levers (11; 11') in a position in which the spacing between the ends (14; 14') is at a minimum.

6. Device according to claim 5, characterised in that the third stop (7) has a length and a shape suitable for retaining at least one of the levers (11; 11') in a position referred to as the cleaning position in which it is not free in terms of rotation.

7. Device according to claim 5, characterised in that the third stop (7) is provided with a protection means, in particular a sleeve of flexible material.

8. Device according to claim 1, characterised in that the levers (11; 11') are arranged so as to cover the periphery of the cut-out (4) which is arranged in the support (2) when the levers (11; 11') are in a rest position.

9. Device according to claim 1, characterised in that each arm (16, 16') which forms a return means is provided with a means (17) for fixing a supplementary gravity return means, in particular a weight.

10. Device according to claim 1, characterised in that the levers (11; 11') are retained with spacing from the support (2) and/or from each other by means of removable discs (12).

11. Device according to claim 1, characterised in that the support (2) is provided with a gripping means (20) and/or fastening means (21).